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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/539,313

Examiner

David E. England

Applicant(s)

HUANG ET AL.

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 04/24/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 16 and 17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/15/2007 DE
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

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DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph A. Nguyen Reg. No. 37899 on Nov. 15, 2007, See Interview Summary.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
4. Claims 10 – 15 (Cancelled).

Reasons for Allowance

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5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art of record (Johnson et al. (6553336) and Kosugi et al. (6204768)) does not teach nor suggest in detail, a computer implemented method for communicating between a computing system of a process module, wherein the process module has a process chamber, and a first sensor, comprising the steps of: initializing the computing system of the process module; initializing the first sensor, which is able to measure a first parameter in the process chamber; transmitting a connect message from the first sensor to the computing system of the process module; transmitting a command to get reportable specification from the computing system of the process module to the first sensor, the computing system having no prior knowledge of a data type specification transmitted by the first sensor upon the transmitting the command to get the reportable specification; automatically transmitting, upon receiving the command to get the reportable specification, a reportable specification message from the first sensor to the computing system of the process module, the reportable specification message being configured to inform the computing system of the processing module at least the data type specification transmitted by the first sensor; transmitting a process related command related to the execution of an action in the process chamber from the computing system of the process module to the first sensor; and thereafter receiving, using the computing system of the processing module and the reportable specification message received from the first sensor, sensor data from the first sensor", as taught by the Applicant (see Arguments dated 10/17/2006, pages 10 – 15; Specification as of 03/30/2000, pages 7 – 12; and Drawings dated 03/30/2000, Figures 1, 3 and 4 of Applicant's enabling portions of the specification and drawings).

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6. Examiner finds Applicant's arguments in regards to the prior art of Johnson persuasive. More specifically, the arguments in regard to the master/slave relation and how the nodes in the prior art communicate information between each other. This type of communication is not what is taught by the Applicant's invention. The communication information that is utilized with a process chamber and the sensors is not taught in the prior art, as stated in the Applicant's Appeal Brief and in Applicant's enabling portions of their specification on pages 7 – 10.

7. Claims 1 – 9, 16 and 17 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. England whose telephone number is 571-272-3912. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 7:00-5:00.

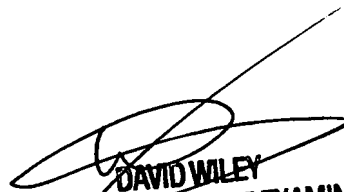
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 571-272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

David E. England
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